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OZ HAND ANOTHER HEARTBREAK TO INDIA, WIN MEN'S U19 WC

Months after the senior men's team beat India to win the ODI World Cup, Australia did the same to secure their fourth U19 WC title. A look...

BEARDMAN BLOWS AWAY DEFENDING CHAMPS

While Australia batters posted a formidable 253/7 on board, it was bowlers who took away India's dream. Pacer Mahli Beardman (3/15) ran through the top-order before off-spinner Raf MacMillan (3/43) completed the job for Australia as they beat India by 79 runs to clinch their fourth U19 Men's World Cup title | P13

DREAM SHATTERED, BUT PROMISE REMAINS

Going into the final as one of the unbeaten teams, the other one was Australia, there were high hopes on the Uday Saharan-led side to defend the title

However, despite the defeat, the likes of Musheer Khan, Sachin Dhas, Raj Limbani and Saharan have shown that there is no dearth of talent

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Hectic parleys in Pak as no wriggle room in final tally

Pact emerging between Nawaz Sharif and Bilawal's parties; all eyes on independents

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MAJOR political parties in Pakistan on Sunday intensified hectic backroom negotiations after the election commission released the final results of the February 8 general elections, confirming that no party can have a shot at power without the support of others.

Out of the 265 contested seats in the 266-member National Assembly, the results of 264 were declared after an inexplicable delay of 60 hours. The result of one constituency was withheld following complaints of fraud, while election to another seat was postponed after the death of a candidate.

The final tally gave independent candidates 101 seats, making them the single largest group. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is technically the single largest party at 75, followed by Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) of Bilawal Zardari Bhutto at 54, and the Karachi-based Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) at 17.

Of the 101 independents who emerged victorious, 93 are reportedly associated with jailed former PM Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

According to reports, PML-N and PPP have in-principle agreed to come together to "save the country from political instability". Senior leadership of PML-N and PPP reportedly met in Lahore's Bilawal House and decided on political cooperation. MQM-P is already ready on board. But their tally at 146 is way short of the required number, which leaves the door open for smaller parties and independents. One PTI-backed candidate has already joined PML-N, agency reports from Pakistan said.

To form government, a party must win 133 seats out of 265 contested seats in the National Assembly. Overall, 169 seats are needed to secure a simple majority out of total 336 seats, which include reserved slots for women and minorities.

The drama is still unfolding in the coup-prone country as courts are flooded with complaints of poll rigging.

Delhi braces for farmers' protest tomorrow, borders fortified

UJWAL JALALI & JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

AS farmers from neighbouring states are expected to enter the national capital on February 13 following their proposed 'Delhi Chalo March', the police have strengthened security arrangements across all border areas and imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure in northeast Delhi.

Several farmers associations, mostly from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab, have called for a protest on Tuesday to demand a law guaranteeing minimum support price (MSP), which they said was the condition to end



their agitation in 2021.

The security forces are on high alert over concerns that the protest could create chaos and may turn violent. They have erected multi-layered barricades, fixed iron nails on roads, and installed barbed wires and iron rods between cemented barriers at different sites along Punjab-Haryana, Delhi-Haryana, and Del-

hi-Uttar Pradesh borders.

"Information has been received that some farmer organisations have given a call to their supporters to march to Delhi on February 13 for their demands for a law on MSP. They are likely to sit at the border of Delhi till their demands are met," Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Turkey said in an official order.

He said that given the "kind of behaviour and adamant approach" farmers have shown during the protests in the past, there is a possibility of mobilisation, activities of farmers, supporters from their respective districts to Delhi along with tractor, trolleys, and even weapons.



BOW-ING TO WIN HEARTS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a bow and arrow by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav during the Janatiya Sammelan in Jhabua on Sunday | P11

MLAs return to Patna for trust vote

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

BIHAR legislators, who were corralled by their respective parties, have started returning to Patna to cast their votes on Monday's trust vote being faced by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar — this time for the NDA.

Congress MLAs have returned from Hyderabad and are believed to be taken to RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav's house where he had gathered his legislators for the past two days. BJP MLAs, who were gathered

in Bodh Gaya for a two-day training workshop, returned to the state capital.

Nitish needs the support of 122 legislators to win the trust vote. On paper, he has the support of 128 MLAs of JDU, BJP, Jitan Ram Manjhi, and one independent in the 243-member assembly. BJP leader Haribhushan Thakur exuded confidence that they will win the floor test comfortably and said that the new government will complete its full term.

The Opposition's grand alli-

ance has a total of 114 MLAs in its favour — eight short of the majority mark of 122.

The no-confidence motion against the Speaker will be taken up after the governor's address to members of the bicameral legislature on the inaugural day of the Budget session.

Bihar minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary said the House will first take up the no-confidence motion against the Speaker, who is from RJD. Dy Speaker Maheshwar Hazari belongs to the JD(U).

CAPF EXAMS IN LOCAL LANGUAGES



In a first, the constable recruitment examination in the Central Armed Police Forces such as the CRPF, BSF and CISF will be conducted in 13 regional languages apart from Hindi and English. The exams are being held from February 10 to March 7 and 48 lakh candidates are appearing

FULL REPORT: P9



PTI supporters block Peshawar to Islamabad highway as they protest the alleged skewing in Pakistan's national election results. In Peshawar on Sunday | A10

Shah to state BJP: Make plans to win all 28 seats

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

WITH Prime Minister Narendra Modi setting a target of 400 seats in the Lok Sabha elections to return to power for a third term with flying colours, Union Home Minister Amit Shah here on Sunday held an hour-long closed-door meeting to draw a road map for the crucial polls in Karnataka.

Shah, considered the Chanakya of BJP, set an agenda to win all the 28 seats in the state and wanted BJP core committee leaders to work on a road map and strategy to counter Congress toolkit and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's guarantee schemes and also to focus on the government's economic bankruptcy. The Core Committee devoted much of its time to devise a plan to corn the government both inside and outside the House.

Shah said Siddaramaiah himself has set a narrative for the Lok Sabha elections by holding a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, accusing the Centre of discriminating against Karnataka in releasing central funds.

BJP picks Bhandage, not Rajeev, for lone RS seat

Bengaluru: The BJP on Sunday announced Narayanasa Krishna Bhandage as the candidate for Rajya Sabha elections from Karnataka. This belies speculation that the party would again choose Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar for the seat. P4

He said it is a conspiracy against nationalism by playing the regional card. He wondered what other plans Congress has in the run-up to the elections and asked BJP leaders to draw up a counter-strategy and to effectively reach people to expose failures of the government.

BJP leaders were told not to give Siddaramaiah a free run in carrying out a propaganda against BJP and to effectively counter it with figures on devolution of taxes and funds released by the Centre to the state, including grants for various programmes, as against the funds allocated by the UPA government. P4

Coffee as career? Centre of Excellence proposed in B'luru

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

WITH coffee doing well on global price charts, there is an increasing demand for more skilled labour. To promote capacity building in this niche field, the Coffee Board of India has sent a proposal to the government to establish a 'Centre of Excellence for Coffee' in Bengaluru. Currently, the board has limited seats for its programmes and aims to introduce newer short-term courses for coffee enthusiasts.

Board Chief Executive Officer

and Secretary Dr KG Jagadeesha said, "We run a one-year Post Graduate Diploma in Coffee Quality Management (PGDCQM), which is highly sought after. It is run in the Coffee Quality Division in Bengaluru and students also visit the Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) in Chikmagalur for three months. Students get industry experiences such as visiting cafes, understanding roasteries and understanding the packaging and promotion. However, we can take only 15 individuals and the applications that come in are



more than 500." The applicants are thoroughly reviewed based on sensory evalu-

ation, interview and academic records and should have a bachelor's degree in botany, zoology, food sciences, bioscience or agricultural sciences. The proposal submitted to the government is part of the five-year budgetary renewal during which the board lists down its vision and plans for the next term.

"The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) proposal entails an exclusive centre for coffee and various skilling and upskilling programmes," Jagadeesha said.

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